

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
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R 221806Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3710
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19931

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, IZ
SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON GULF SECURITY
DISCUSSIONS

REF. STATE 156769

1. WE HAD DISCUSSED FLORA LEWIS ARTICLE WITH LOCAL
PRESS SOURCES KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MIDDLE EAST MATTERS AND
THE SUBJECT ALSO AROSE IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH
QUAI OFFICIALS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AREA.
PRESS SOURCES WERE AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT INFORMATION
AVAILABLE IN PARIS COULD HAVE LED LEWIS TO THE CON-
CLUSION THAT A GULF SECURITY PACT MIGHT BE IN THE
OFFING. QUAI OFFICIALS WERE SIMILARLY UNAWARE THAT
THE IDEA OF A PACT MIGHT HAVE COME ALIVE AGAIN.

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2. ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE STORY WHICH MIGHT HAVE
LED LEWIS TO HER CONCLUSION, IT IS TRUE THAT THE GOF
HAS A CONTINUING INTEREST IN ARMS SALES TO IRAQ WHICH
THEY JUSTIFY AS GIVING IRAQ A WESTERN ALTERNATIVE
WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO LOOSENING OF TIES WITH
THE USSR. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH DEFMIN BOURGES
IS PRESENTLY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAQ AND THERE

IS PRESS SPECULATION OF ARMS SALES BEING CONCLUDED.
DAUSSAULT AVIATION (MIRAGE) OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY
BEEN IN BAGHDAD.

3. FRENCH OFFICIALS HAVE FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST
RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN IRAQI-SOVIET RELATIONS AND
HAVE SPECULATED THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO A WIDENING OF
THE IRAQI OPENING TO THE WEST INCLUDING AN APPROACH
TO THE US FOR BETTER RELATIONS. THEY NOTE, HOWEVER,
THAT THE DISPUTE WITH THE SOVIETS HAS APPARENTLY
CALMED DOWN IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS OR SO AND THINK THIS
MAY BE RELATED TO REPORTS THEY HAVE HAD OF A SECRET
HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET VISIT TO BAGHDAD.

4. IN SUM, WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS HERE THAT THERE HAS
BEEN A CHANGE IN THE SITUATION PREVIOUSLY REPORTED
BY AREA POSTS TO THE EFFECT THAT WHEN THE THREE MAJOR
GULF STATES TALK ABOUT GULF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THEY
ARE TALKING ABOUT VERY DIFFERENT THINGS.
HARTMAN

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